



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - October 15, 2002

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather across ***California and the Southwest*** favors summer crop drydown and autumn fieldwork. Cool, dry weather prevails elsewhere in the region.
- ***On the Plains***, the latest in a series of strong cold fronts is crossing the region, further slowing winter wheat development across ***northern areas***. Weekend temperatures as low as 10 degrees F were noted in ***northern Montana***, burning back emerging wheat. In addition, many wheat fields from the ***High Plains westward*** are in need of additional moisture to ensure proper autumn establishment.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold, dry weather favors an acceleration of corn and soybean harvesting in the ***upper Midwest*** and a continuation of autumn fieldwork elsewhere. In the ***Ohio Valley***, weekend frosts temporarily slowed winter wheat emergence.
- ***In the South***, light showers are ending across the ***Delta***, where wet fields are causing some additional summer crop harvest delays. Meanwhile, locally heavy rain is spreading into the ***Southeast***, slowing fieldwork but further easing long-term drought.

Outlook: A developing storm over the ***eastern Gulf of Mexico*** will bring widespread rain to the ***Southeastern and Atlantic Coast States***, while a reinforcing cold front will maintain below-normal temperatures and a threat of light rain or snow across the ***central and northern Plains*** and ***Great Lakes States***. Farther west, showers will develop in the ***Four Corners region***, while a high-pressure system will keep the remainder of the ***Rocky Mountain*** and ***Pacific Coast States*** dry. By week's end, rain will spread onto the ***southern Plains***, while warmer weather will return to the ***High Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 20-24 calls for below-normal temperatures nearly nationwide. Warmer-than-normal weather will be confined to ***northern California*** and ***southern Florida***. Above-normal precipitation is expected in the ***Rockies, High Plains***, and much of the ***South***, while drier-than-normal conditions are forecast for the ***Northwest, upper Midwest, Great Lakes region, and southern Florida***.

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